

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FARM ADVISER

News Notes from the Field of the Extension Service, Released for Publication Every Two Weeks
From the Office of the Director of Extension.

Vol. 2.

College Park, Maryland, May 1, 1916.

No. 14

PUBLISHED EVERY TWO WEEKS BY
The Maryland Agricultural College
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

Entered as second-class matter February 5, 1915, at the post-office at College Park, Maryland, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB MEETING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

College Park, Md., April 29.

A most successful meeting of a local Boys' Agricultural Club at Clear Spring, Washington county, was held last Saturday. This club was organized by the local agricultural teacher, Mr. C. E. Leathers, who has been most active in interesting his pupils in the agricultural possibilities of their neighborhood. With their co-operation, he has succeeded in organizing a most promising Agricultural club, mostly whose members are interested in the State Corn growing competition. At this meeting, they were addressed by Mr. Reuben Brigham, Assistant State Agent in charge of Boys' Club Work, and Prof. Nickolas Schmitz, of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment

Station. Prof. Schmitz gave most practical advice in connection with the growing of a profitable corn crop and laid especial emphasis on the necessity of proper cultivation in conserving the moisture and stimulating the growth of the crop.

He said in part as follows:

"If it is desired to produce a profitable corn crop, cultivation must be thorough. It should begin early, and when necessary, continue until after the tassel or even the ear appears. No rule can be given for the number of times corn can be worked; because in some cases, four times may be sufficient, and in other cases eight or ten workings may not be too much; weather, weeds, and soil conditions are the only safe guides.

"The cultivator should be started as soon as conditions will permit, not waiting until weeds begin to show. In fact, the best way to keep the weeds in check is never to let them get started, and the nearer each working is done to the proper time for it, the fewer the number of cultivations necessary. Shallow cultivation is to be preferred at all times; however, if after cultivation with the spike-tooth harrow or weeder, the ground has become hard and weedy, the first cultivation with the cultivator should be deep and close to the corn. This is the proper time to get a start on the weeds if you are going to do it at all. After the corn is six or eight inches high all cultivation should be shallow, running the shovels not more than three inches deep at any time. The reasons for this is that as soon as the corn plants have grown a foot tall, their roots generally reach entirely across the row and only two or three inches below the surface, a cultivation deeper than two or three inches is certain to de-

stroy a large number of the roots, checking growth and reducing the possible yield. In fact, under ordinary conditions, a large number of the roots develop so near the surface that cultivating four inches deep may destroy fifty per cent more roots than cultivating three inches deep.

"It must always be borne in mind that killing the weeds is only a part of the results that cultivation brings about in producing a profitable corn crop. It is fully as important as killing the weeds that cultivation break the soil crust, allowing air to penetrate the soil and preventing the soil moisture from escaping. A safe rule to follow is to give the crop a shallow cultivation as soon after every rain as the land becomes workable. Neither is it safe to let the soil become too hard to cultivate to the best advantage during prolonged dry weather. Continued dry weather, if allowed to harden the soil, will reduce the yield considerably and make after cultivation of doubtful value. Until the corn goes into silk the soil surface should be kept in a fine, loose condition. Late shallow cultivations, especially in a dry season, are often as valuable as the earlier ones. Water, after all, has much to do with the making of a profitable corn crop, and unless this dust mulch or soil cover is kept fresh and loose between the deeper soil about the corn roots and the direct rays of the sun, part of the corn plant's supply will be lost and the chances of a profitable yield lessened."

HORSE AND COLT SHOW WILL BE
FEATURE OF FARMERS' DAY

College Park, Md., May 1.

Following the selection of May 30th as Farmers' Day at the Agri-

cultural College, a special announcement has been issued by the Animal Husbandry Department regarding a horse and colt show which will be a special feature of the occasion. It is expected that this display will be a strong attraction to the many owners of fine draft horses among the hundreds of farmers and their families who annually visit their Agricultural College and inspect its work.

It is with the view of promoting the interests of livestock within the immediate vicinity, that a Horse and Colt Show will be inaugurated this year. Entries to this show will be open to any person in the State of Maryland and District of Columbia.

The Show will begin at 10.30 a. m., sharp, on the morning of the 30th. The judges' decision will be final in all cases. The judges can withhold a ribbon if animals exhibited are not worthy. Judges will award first and second ribbons in the following classes:

Percheons, Clydesdales, Belgians, Shires.

Class 1. Best stallion, 4 years old and over.

" 2. " " 3 "

" 3. Mare or gelding, 3 years old

" 4. Stallion, 2 years old.

" 5. Mare or gelding 2 years old.

" 6. Stallion 1 year old.

" 7. Mare or gelding 1 year old.

" 8. Brood mare with fold at side

The above classes will apply to all draft breeds, but no two breeds will be allowed to compete in the same class.

Class 9. Best grade draft mare or gelding 4 years and over shown in harness.

" 10. Best grade draft mare or gelding 3 years old shown to halter.

" 11. Best four-horse team.

" 12. " pair of horses not less than 1400 pounds.

" 13. " six-horse team.

" 14. " six-mule team.

" 15. " pair mules not less than 15 hands.

" 16. " Single mule.

" 17. " Jack.

" 18. " Equipped one-horse milk wagon.

" 19. " Equipped one-horse delivery wagon.

" 20. " pair family carriage horses.

" 21. " pony and cart.

The College will stable and feed all entries and furnish a watchman from the afternoon of the 29th until 5 p. m., on the 30th.

Board and quarters in tent will be furnished the attendants.

This is a special opportunity for farmers to compare their horses with the other popular breeds used in the State. Come and help make this first Show a success.

Entries will close on Saturday, May 27th. All communications should be sent to Animal Husbandry Department, Maryland Agricultural College, College Park, Maryland.

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS FOR FARM PRACTICE IN MAY

College Park, Md., May 1.

Practical suggestions of a most timely nature for the month of May are included in the lessons issued by the Department of Agricultural Education of the Agricultural College, which are being adopted in a number of counties of the State for use in the public schools.

The suggestions in part are as follows:

SOIL—Winter cover crops should be turned if this work has not already been done. Be careful not to turn over completely the furrow slice. Instead, the slice should rest against its neighbor.

CROPS—Begin planting corn. Good seed beds should be prepared as thorough preparation is more than half the battle in growing a cultivated crop. If there are areas on the farm that are run down or lack humus, plant them to cow peas, soy beans, or velvet beans. These plants not only store nitrogen in the soil but add other fertilizing elements and vegetable matter when turned under.

ORCHARDS—Continue spraying all trees, using Bordeaux Mixture and arsenate of lead. The grape vines should receive liberal applications of Bordeaux Mixture.

GARDENS—Set out tomato, potato, pepper and egg plants. Plant melon, cucumbers and squashes. Keep up

a continuous shallow cultivation of garden crops. Plan for a continuous supply of beans and sweet corn. Keep an eye out for potato beetles and combat them with arsenate of lead or Paris green.

FARM ANIMALS—It will be noted that now is the time to plant rape, sow cow peas and corn. Sufficient amounts of these crops should be planted to insure ample grazing in late summer and fall.

Begin marketing the early chickens. Broilers put on the market at this season command a fancy price. Look after the health of young chickens; see that they have fresh water and wholesome food, also that brooders and brooding coops are kept dry and in a sanitary condition. A liberal amount of lime should be used around poultry houses and runs.

Provide a special room or small house for milk and its products. Such a place should be cool and clean. Running water should be provided.

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS—Drain all swampy places, keep the stables clean, mow the weeds and screen the doors and windows. Provide conveniences for the kitchen. Make or purchase a fireless cooker.

MASS MEETING OF DAIRYMEN TO BE HELD IN HARFORD COUNTY

College Park, Md., April 28.

As a result of the efforts of the local Cow Testing and Dairymen's Association of Harford County, there will be a dairymen's meeting held at Bel Air on May 4th, at 10 a. m. At that time Prof. Munn of the American Jersey Cattle Club, and Mr. Hugh Van Pelt a well-known representative of Kimball's Dairy Farmer, will address the meeting. Mr. Van Pelt will give an especially valuable demonstration of cow judging, which is to be made possible by local dairymen furnishing a number of their cows for this purpose. It is expected that the exceedingly practical nature of the meeting and the wide reputations enjoyed by the speakers will attract a large number of dairymen in Harford county to the meeting.

